

48-Hour Notice for Smoke Testing of Neighborhood Sewers

Within the next 48 to 72 hours, depending on the progress of work, King County inspection crews will be smoke testing the sewer system in your neighborhood.

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division, in coordination with the Skyway Water & Sewer District, will begin **smoke testing** of the **sewer system in your neighborhood**. This inspection is part of the county's program to detect clean groundwater or stormwater that may be entering the sewers through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, or improperly connected building downspouts or foundation drains. Leaky or damaged pipes increase the risk of sewer backflows and raise the costs of wastewater treatment.

Inspection crews will pump smoke through sewers pipes from manholes in the streets or within public easements, and then observe and document where smoke exits. **No digging or disruption of yards will occur.** The exiting smoke can indicate the location of a broken pipe, leaky manhole, or where roof or foundation drains may be connected to the sewer system, indicating where groundwater or storm water may be entering the sewer system. Smoke will typically appear from roof or yard drains connected to the sewer system. The smoke may also appear from cracks in the pavement above the sewer, from landscaping above private connecting sewers and around homes with foundation drains connected to the sewer.

The Right of Entry form property owners received was a request for permission for inspection crews to step onto properties and observe and document test results. Please note that sewer inspections will still take place in the neighborhood even if we did not receive a signed Right of Entry form from each property owner. Inspection crews will just be unable to access and record test results at those properties. All residents should prepare for smoke testing.

To prevent smoke from appearing in basements through rarely used floor drains, disconnected or faulty plumbing fixtures:

Residents are advised to pour 1 quart of water down all floor drains and other rarely used plumbing fixtures within the next 24 hours.

The smoke used is manufactured for this purpose, may be colored for better detection and visibility, and leaves no residuals or stains. The smoke may also have an odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes. **THIS SMOKE IS NONTOXIC, HARMLESS TO PEOPLE, PETS, AND PLANTS, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.** The local fire department will be notified prior to smoke testing. The inspection crew will also be available at test sites to answer questions. See enclosed sheet for "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding smoke testing.

For more information about the upcoming sewer system smoke testing, please contact Maryann Petrocelli at King County Wastewater Treatment Division by calling (206) 263-7321, via email at maryann.petrocelli@kingcounty.gov, or by calling the 24-hour information hotline at (206) 205-3872. You may also contact Cheryl Scheuerman, Skyway Water and Sewer District General Manager at (206) 772-7343.

**To receive this information in alternative formats,
Call (206) 684-1714 (voice) or 711 (TTY)**